

LEVEL : 1st Year Basic Training

SECTION / GROUP : A & B

MODULE : Algebra 1

FULL NAME : .....

**Midterm  
Test 1**

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DATE : 26 / 11 / 2025

DURATION : 1h30

NOTE : No documents are allowed.

**Exercise 1 : (5 points)**

We consider on  $\mathbb{R}^*$  the binary relation  $R$  defined by :

$$x, y \in \mathbb{R}^*, \quad x R y \iff x \cdot y > 0.$$

1. Show that  $R$  is an equivalence relation.
2. Determine the equivalence class  $\bar{x}$  associated with  $x$ .
3. Indicate the number of elements of the quotient set  $\mathbb{R}^*/R$ .

**Exercise 2 : (12 points)**

A set  $E$  is said to be *countable* if and only if there exists a bijection from the set  $\mathbb{N}$  of natural numbers onto  $E$ .

1. (a) For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , define  $f(n) = n + 1$ . Prove that  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^*$  is a bijection.  
(b) Determine a bijection  $g$  from  $\mathbb{N}$  onto the set of even natural numbers  $2\mathbb{N}$ .
2. The goal of this question is to show that  $\mathbb{Z}$  is countable. For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , define :

$$\varphi(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{n}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is even,} \\ -\frac{n+1}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Show that this defines a function  $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (b) Show that  $\varphi$  is injective.
- (c) Show that  $\varphi$  is surjective.
- (d) Explicitly give the inverse bijection  $\varphi^{-1}$ .
3. The goal of this question is to show that  $\mathbb{N}^2$  is countable.  
(a) Prove by strong induction on  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$  that :

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}^*, \exists (p, q) \in \mathbb{N}^2, \quad n = 2^p(2q + 1).$$

- (b) Show that the function

$$\psi : \begin{cases} \mathbb{N}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{N}^*, \\ (p, q) \longmapsto 2^p(2q + 1) \end{cases}$$

is bijective.

- (c) Deduce from the previous question and from 1.(a) that  $\mathbb{N}^2$  is countable.
4. Deduce from the previous question that  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  is countable.

5. A set  $E$  is said to be *at most countable* if and only if there exists a surjection from  $\mathbb{N}$  onto  $E$ .

(a) Consider the function

$$h : \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N}^* \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}, \\ (p, q) \longmapsto \frac{p}{q} \end{cases}$$

Determine whether  $h$  is injective, surjective, or bijective.

(b) Conclude that  $\mathbb{Q}$  is at most countable.

**Exercise 3 : (3 points)**

In this statement, the negation of a propositional formula  $P$  will be written indifferently as  $\neg P$  or  $\overline{P}$ .

1. The *Sheffer stroke*, denoted " $|$ ", is the logical connective defined as follows : For any propositional formulas  $P$  and  $Q$ , the formula  $(P | Q)$  is logically equivalent to  $(\overline{P} \vee \overline{Q})$ .  
Show that  $(P | Q) \equiv \overline{P \wedge Q}$ .
2. Express the connectives  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ , and  $\Rightarrow$  using only the Sheffer stroke.